

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Warren to hold town election

Three-way race on June 16

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARREN—The Annual Town Elections for Warren has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 16, and the only contested race is that of the selectman's seat for which there are three candidates: Peter H. Krawczyk, of 21 School St., Dario Nardi, of 49 Lombard St., and David Dufresne, of 370 Cutler Road Extension. Nardi is running for re-election. Dufresne is also running for a five-year term on the Planning Board, which he is already serving on, and has already checked with the state to be sure he could run for both positions at the same time.

Vincent J. McCaughey, of 99 Burbank Ave., is running for a three-year term as moderator; Donald J. Makowski, of 18 Milton O. Fountain Way, is running for a three-year term as moderator; Timothy J. Czub, of 475 South St., is running for a one-year term on the Board of

Please see **ELECTION**, page 3

Towns face phase II

COVID consultant hired for Quabbin Health District

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN — With Phase II underway for the state of Massachusetts, the Quabbin Health District, which includes Ware, has hired a consultant to help departments and businesses to navigate measures they need to keep people safe in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belchertown, there have been a total of 100 confirmed cases of COVID-19, five of which were new, according to Quabbin District Health Director Judy Metcalf. There have been a total of eight deaths related to the virus, with one most recently reported as of Friday, June 5.

As the town begins moving into Phase II, Metcalf said reading the state's regulations can be "dense and confusing."

"The biggest change is that restaurants can do outdoor dining," she said.

To help those navigating the reopening process, the Quabbin Health District has hired Stephen Bell to be a consultant using grant funding.

"He is going to help us to be proactive and keep people as safe as they can be," Metcalf said. "The Board of Health, the health

Please see **PHASE II**, page 5

Inside this edition:

Viewpoints.....	4	Public Notices.....	14
Sports.....	9	Classifieds.....	15
Obituaries.....	13		
Police/Fire.....	14		



PETS
Second
Chance to
hold golf
tourney

Page 5



SPORTS
D'Angelo was
set to rebuild
Quaboag
tennis

Page 9



EDUCATION
Meet the
Quaboag
Regional
graduates

Page 10

Connect with us

WareRiverNews

Pathfinder celebrates graduating seniors

Parade held in
their honor

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — High school graduation season has arrived, and with current restrictions for typical celebrations, staff members and bus drivers of Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School held a parade on May 29th.

Before the parade officially began at 9 a.m., participating staff met in the school's back parking lot to decorate the buses used to deliver bags full of gifts to the 155 graduating students. Each bag was loaded up with academic and vocational awards, athletic awards, caps and gowns, and more.

Being a regional school, there

were a total of six buses that were loaded with half a dozen teachers on each bus to cover the nine districts the school serves, including Palmer, Ware, Warren, New Braintree, Hardwick, Belchertown, Granby and other communities. As for the out-of-district towns such as West Springfield and Wilbraham, some staff used their personal vehicles to visit, gift and congratulate the seniors.

Principal and Assistant Superintendent Eric Duda, who was present for the parade, said he's happy he and other staff could provide this opportunity.

"As much as this is a huge difference of what we normally would have done to celebrate, we're really happy to celebrate the seniors this way," said Duda. "We really want to do every-

Please see **PATHFINDER**, page 8

Local family shares their personal COVID-19 story

Loss and recovery

By Michelle Holmgren
Special correspondent

PALMER — While many COVID-19 patients are making a full recovery, the more serious cases have been found in people who are middle-aged, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems and other underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes or chronic lung disease. These patients have a harder time recovering from COVID-19 and in some cases can deteriorate quickly.

Western Massachusetts has not been spared of the agony that this human tragedy is leaving behind as courageous doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers battle daily to save lives.

"This new virus brings challenges for healthcare workers as they care for patients and their

families," said Dr. Benjamin Freda, hospitalist and assistant professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, who is part of the COVID-19 care team at Baystate Wing Hospital. "In order to keep this virus from spreading, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living complexes have kept patients separate from families and visitors."

"Our team is caring for patients and also helping them connect with their families and loved ones while in the hospital using an iPad and FaceTime," said Dr. Freda. "In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families are experiencing the loss of loved ones and in some cases we are helping to provide measure of closure for families."

Anthony D'Amato of Belchertown has left behind a

Please see **FAMILY**, page 3

CLASS OF 2020 Comes together one last time

Left to right QRMS seniors Vanessa Ricci, Makenzie Messier and Jordan D'Angelo talk before last Saturday's graduation ceremony.

A bittersweet
goodbye

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

said Jordan D'Angelo. But they did have it outside in the school parking lot, with families staying in their cars, and many of the vehicles decorated for a specific senior.

After a majority of parents and students surveyed said they wanted some kind of physical ceremony, school officials went into planning mode. A farm wagon was donated by Tyler Shepard, and with the carpentry skills of history teacher Joseph Salvadore and Marc Astrella, a stage was built in a day. A large banner had photos of each senior, across the front.

Pomp and circumstance played to begin the ceremony, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, recited by Jack and

Please see **QUAOAG**, page 12



Emily Pease, Class of 2020 salutatorian, sang the national anthem at graduation.

Community comes together against brutality



Participants in the rally of community solidarity against police brutality march up and down Main Street after listening to several speakers at Veteran's Park in Ware on Sunday afternoon.

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — A community solidarity rally drew a couple hundred people who stood together against police brutality and in support of police officers who do their job professionally Sunday afternoon at Veteran's Park.

People held a wide variety of signs condemning the death of George Floyd, who was killed in Minneapolis recently when an officer there kneeled on his neck for over eight minutes, and supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. The officer responsible was arrested on a murder charge, and the three other officers with him who did not intervene have been charged as accessories.

African American grand-

mother and mother Deadra McCoy said "we needed to come here because of who we are," just before greeting two grandsons, Josiah and Isiah Porter, who had arrived with their mother, Yahshannah Porter. Porter said she was talking with her sons on the way to the rally about why they were attending. "Then he asked me Mama, 'why do people want to destroy what God made?' I said, 'baby, I wish I knew I."

The crowd was mostly Ware residents and their friends and family turning out for the rally, which was followed by them walking back and forth along Main Street, which police closed to traffic.

Steven Hawk was front and

Please see **RALLY**, page 7

Selectmen to consider lowering ATM quorum

WARE — The Board of Selectmen for the town of Ware will consider reducing the quorum requirement from 100 to a lower number as they determine to be appropriate for the Annual Town Meeting which will be held on Monday, June 22, at Ware Town Hall.

Due to COVID-19 and in the interest of public safety the Board of Selectmen wish to reduce the quorum.

A discussion of the reduction in the quorum will be held at the Board of Selectmen meeting of June 16. All interested individuals are invited to follow the discussion of the Board of Selectmen at this time.

Ware River News
**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries
should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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community corner

ekennedy@turley.com

Are You Old News?



Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.



The people in last week's Are you old news? Are Helen Zabek, Theresa Skowyra, Lucille Pisarcyzk and Laura Sullivan preparing food for St. Mary's Church Carnival in June 1991.

Anyone who recognizes the high school students in this week's photo should send the answer and their full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

Ware Senior Center news

WARE — The next Council on Aging meeting will tentatively be held at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Rd., on Tuesday, June 16, from 9 to 10 a.m. The meetings are open to the public (with social distancing rules observed) and time for new business will be allowed near the beginning of the meeting. They ask that people try to contain new business to a maximum of two minutes per person.

Mobile Food Pantry of the Western Mass Food Bank will be held at Grenville Park, on Tuesday, June 16, from 1 to 2 p.m. People should enter the park in their car from Church Street and stay in their car. They will be directed where to go.

The Jubilee Cupboard provides emergency food assistance and is open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to

noon. The location is 20 Park St., next door to Trinity Church and directly behind the Old Ware Fire Station. Proof of residence is required. For more information, people may call 413-967-3274 or email Jubilee_Cupboard@trinityware.org.

The Ware Senior Center is a Regional SNAP Provider for the Department of Transitional Assistance. SNAP applications can be processed directly at the center, cutting the response time nearly in half. Seniors in need of access to the SNAP program should make an appointment with Maire Brigid Bresnahan at the front desk or by calling 413-967-9645, ext. 502.

For the duration of the mandatory closure of the Ware Senior Center, the Quabaog

Valley Community Development Corporation will be able to provide small errand, grocery shopping and prescription pickup services to seniors. Their volunteers are CORI checked and willing to help throughout this crisis. People may call Melissa at 413-967-3001 Monday through Friday after 9 a.m. This is not a ride service, they will pick up and deliver to you, ask Melissa for details.

Warren Senior Center news

WEST WARREN — The Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., has changed the date of their turkey dinner meal to June 17, due to voting on June 16. The senior center is still closed to the public, but their staff are back to their regular hours so if seniors have questions or concerns they may call 413-436-5662 or 413-436-5661.



Some essential services

Restaurants (take out open)

Janine's, Gilbertville Road 413-967-7950
Hanna Devine's, Main Street, Thursday to Sunday, 4 to 8 p.m., 413-277-0707
Niko's, Main Street, 413-967-0469
Villa's, Main Street, 413-967-0200
Lazer's, Main Street, 413-967-3181
Debbie Wong, West Main, 413-967-3336
Teresa's, Palmer Road, 413-967-7601
Subway, West Street, 413-277-0438
Dunkin Donuts, West Street
Taco Bell, West Street, 413, 967-4898
McDonald's, West Street
Wicked Wings, 413-277-0020, hours vary

Banks (drive through services)

Country Bank West Street
Monson Savings, West Street
Westfield Savings, Gibbs Crossing
North Brookfield, Main Street

Groceries

Big Y, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Walmart, 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Convenience/Liquor

Brusso's, West Main Street
Jane Alden, West Street
Ware Package Store, Main Street
Cumberland Farms, West Street
Brookside Mart, West Street

Meals/Food Pick up

Children under 18
Ware Middle School, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Kidstop, Pleasant St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hillside Village, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Seniors, Senior Center 967-9648, ext. 501, weekdays 11:30 a.m.
Trinity Church, Jubilee Cupboard, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, diapers also available
Food Bank distribution, Hillside, Third Tuesdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Home Services

BEC Heating and Plumbing
Lowe's
Walmart
Lagrant Electric
Senior Outreach program, 413-867-3001

Pharmacies

Wal-Mart, 9 a.m.
Walgreens, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
CVS, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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House approves Restaurant Relief Act to assist businesses during COVID-19

BOSTON — The House of Representatives has given initial approval to a bill that would allow restaurants to begin offering mixed drinks with food takeout orders, and to provide expanded outdoor table service with alcohol, subject to local approval.

State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) said House Bill 4767, An Act addressing challenges faced by food and beverage establishments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, would also allow restaurants to delay the filing of meals tax payments collected this year, while capping the fees charged by third-party delivery service companies for online food orders. The bill, which passed the House on a vote of 156-0 on June 3, still requires Senate approval.

The Restaurant Relief Act builds on the guidelines recently issued by Governor Charlie Baker for the state's Phase 2 re-opening, which could begin as early as June 8. Phase 2 allows restaurants to begin offering outdoor dining to customers, but continues to prohibit indoor table service for now.

House Bill 4767 authorizes local licensing authorities to temporarily approve requests for outdoor table service at restaurants, with alcohol sales, through Nov. 30. Smola said this change will allow cities and towns to bypass the current licensing review process conducted by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, which typically takes seven to 10 weeks to complete. Communities would still need to notify the ABCC once an amended license is approved.

Under the bill, licensed establishments can continue to sell beer and wine for off-premis-

es consumption for the duration of the Governor's State of Emergency, or until Feb. 28, 2021, whichever is later. In addition, restaurants currently licensed to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption will now be able to offer cocktails for off-premises consumption during the same time period, under certain restrictions. Mixed drinks must be sold as part of a food order in a sealed container, packaged so it is clear if the lip, cap or seal has been removed or broken, and will be limited to no more than 64 fluid ounces per transaction.

Smola said House Bill 4767 addresses concerns raised by restaurants about the excessive fees charged by some third-party delivery companies during the pandemic. He noted that the bill caps delivery fees at 15% and other non-delivery fees at 5% of the online order purchase price during the State of Emergency, a restriction that will remain in effect until 45 days after the State of Emergency is lifted.

Restaurants will see additional financial relief from a temporary change in the state's procedure for collecting meals tax payments. Businesses will have the option of delaying their meals tax payments for the remainder of the year, without being assessed any late-file or late-payment penalties or interest. Businesses that choose this option will have until Sept. 20 to submit meals taxes collected from June 1 to Aug. 31, and will not have to submit meals taxes for Sept. 1-Dec. 31 until Jan. 20, 2021.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

Notice to Ware residents regarding water use restrictions

WARE — The town is required through its Water Management Act Permit to enact seasonal limits on non-essential outdoor water use. These requirements are to ensure an adequate supply of water for drinking water, to sustain aquatic life in our water bodies and to protect the environment. The Water Department has a choice of instituting these restrictions on an annual basis beginning May 1 each year or based on streamflow triggers in the Ware River. The Water Department has chosen the streamflow triggered approach. We currently need to enact these requirements when the streamflow in the Ware River at the USGS local stream gage at Gibbs Crossing is lower than a predetermined

threshold for three consecutive days. The restriction can be lifted when the threshold limit has been exceeded for seven consecutive days.

That condition requiring water use restrictions was met on June 10, thus the town is required to implement these restrictions. There is to be no nonessential outdoor water use from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. effective immediately. This restriction will remain in place until the Ware River is above the threshold for seven consecutive days.

Nonessential outdoor water use shall mean those uses that are not required: for health or safety reasons; by regulation; for the production of food and fiber; for the maintenance of livestock; or to meet

the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by golf courses as necessary to maintain tees and greens, and limited fairway watering, or irrigation by plant nurseries or agricultural operations as necessary to maintain stock or establish new plantings, wash equipment to prevent damage and/or maintain performance, pest management and plant cooling).

Nonessential outdoor water uses that are subject to mandatory restrictions include: irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems; washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety or to prevent damage and/or maintain performance of agricultural or construction

vehicles or equipment; and washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

All customers of the Ware water system need to comply with these restrictions during these hours. Water can be used for non-essential purposes outside of these hours. Anyone caught ignoring these requirements will be given a warning for the first offense and subsequent offenses will result in actions including fines and water shut offs as permitted by applicable town bylaws and regulations.

Anyone with questions should not hesitate to contact the Ware Water Department at 413-967-9620.

Hardwick to hold Town Election on Tuesday, June 16

HARDWICK — In accordance with Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, the Board of Selectmen have voted to reschedule the Hardwick Annual Town Election from Monday, April 13, to Tuesday, June 16, at the Hardwick Elementary School located at 76 School House Drive. This law also established and allowed for several things relevant to voter registration, the election date, ballots and other materials, voting in person and alternatives to voting in person such as absentee voting.

In addition Governor Charles Baker signed a COVID-19 Order #13, on March 23, which limits gathering to 10 or fewer people, Order #13 shall not apply to any municipal legislative body, the General Court or the Judiciary. That being said a notice of the rescheduled election date and a sample ballot are available on the town's website www.townofhard-

wick.com and on www.mytowngovernment.org/01031.

A voter registration session will take place at the Municipal Building, 307 Main St, on Friday, June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. The Town Clerk will be working during those hours and will be available by phone at 413-477-6700, ext. 104, to assist anyone needing help registering to vote or who have questions pertaining to their voter registration status or the election. Persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Hardwick, and who will be at least 18 years old on or before June 16 are eligible to register. Those residents meeting these qualifications (who are not already registered to vote in Hardwick) and who have a Massachusetts driver's license can submit their registration online at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com, or print and sign the Voter Registration Form and return it

to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 575, Gilbertville, MA, 01031, or drop the form into the drop box located outside, near the main entrance of the Municipal Building. Voter registration forms are also available at most post offices.

The law authorizes the Town to use election materials originally prepared with the original election date. Therefore, we will be using the official and absentee ballots that were prepared and dated for the April 13 Annual Town Election. A sample ballot is available for your perusal at the Town's website www.townofhardwick.com.

People who are taking precautions related to COVID-19, or are physically unable to come to the polls due to a disability, or will be absent from town during voting hours, or due to religious beliefs is unable to vote in person at the polls, or if they would

just prefer not to come to the polls to vote on Election Day, may request an Absentee Ballot to Early Vote. Early Vote-Absentee Ballot applications are available online at www.townofhardwick.com and on the bulletin board at each of the three post offices in Hardwick. Please fill out the application, sign it and mail it to the Town Clerk or drop it in the drop box at the Municipal Office Building. Please allow for ample time for the mailing of the absentee ballot application/ballot and for the ballot to be returned to the Town Clerk no later than the close of the polls on June 16, in order for the ballot to be counted. The polls

will be open on Election Day for those voters who wish to cast their ballots in person. The town will follow the guidelines set for social distancing, requiring masks being worn by voters as well as poll workers.

FAMILY from page 1

mourning family who so dearly loved the man they called "dad" and "grandpa."

When the news broke of COVID-19 in the United States, Anthony's granddaughters, Melanie Ciesluk and Alyssa Maggi were both immediately concerned for her grandfather's health and safety.

"Although he lives alone, my mom, who lives next door to him, is his primary caregiver," said Ciesluk. "As the mass panic of COVID-19 grew, I began to be concerned for my mom as well. She works a few jobs, one of them at a grocery store," she said.

Then the unthinkable happened.

"Never in my wildest nightmares did I imagine that both my mom and grandfather would test positive for COVID-19 within one week of each other," Ciesluk said.

Her mom, Gina D'Amato, was nervous about contracting the virus since she was at risk because of where she worked.

"I was very worried that I might give it to my dad and my girls. I told my dad not to go to the store and I would pick up what he needed. Then I got sick, and I wasn't feeling well enough to take care of him the way that I usually did. After that we relied on phone calls to check in and make sure he was doing okay," D'Amato said.

One morning, when he didn't answer the phone, she discovered he had fallen and had been alone on the floor all night, unable to

pick himself up.

D'Amato called the ambulance and the EMTs transported her father to Baystate Wing Hospital.

"Five days later I found myself in the same ambulance being admitted to Baystate Wing Hospital in the COVID Unit just two rooms down from my father after we both tested positive for COVID-19. The doctors, nurses and staff went above and beyond to care of my father and for me," D'Amato said, whose recovery was under the watchful eye of Dr. Freda and Dr. Jill Levin, hospitalist, of the Baystate Wing COVID-19 care team.

"The staff were concerned about me and how I was feeling both physically and mentally. Dr. Freda is very knowledgeable and shared with me what he knew about COVID-19 and the treatment plan for me. Not only is he a wonderful doctor, he is a very caring person," she added.

Every morning when the nurse came in to do D'Amato's EKG, she would ask how her father did throughout the night.

"He was stable for the first few days, but then the doctors prepared me for what I hoped wasn't true. His condition was declining, and it was unlikely he would be able to fight this or make it through," D'Amato said.

When it came time for D'Amato to be discharged after spending nine days in the hospital, given the circumstances, Dr. Freda thought it would be good for her to go and see her father.

"The morning of my discharge I felt an overwhelming sense of guilt and sadness that this would be the last time I saw my father. I told him that I loved him, and I was sorry I had to leave him there. I knew he would pass alone without his family around him," D'Amato said.

Dr. Freda helped her prepare for what was to come and walked out of the hospital with D'Amato telling her he would "take care of my father as if he were his own father."

"He had spoken to one of the nurses about how it would be a good idea to get a picture of me saying goodbye to my father before I was discharged. I am now so glad they gave me this opportunity and that the hospital staff made it possible for my father to receive the anointing of the sick by his priest over the phone," D'Amato said.

Alyssa Maggi, Anthony's granddaughter, noted that there is nothing that can prepare you "to say goodbye to someone who was once so strong, but slowly fading away."

"It was so surreal and heart breaking to see firsthand the pain and suffering he was facing and I wished I could hold his hand and comfort him. I was grateful, however, that my sister, my mom and my grandpa and I were able to have a group facetime to see each with the use of the hospital's iPad with the help of his nurse. He told me he loved me, which in itself is usually no easy feat to get out of him - a retired soldier and police officer," she said.

Seventeen days after being admitted to the hospital, Anthony

D'Amato passed away peacefully, with his nurse and care team by his side.

Working tirelessly, health care providers at times struggle themselves to cope with the uncommon stress and the magnitude of what their job has now become as a result of COVID-19. Dr. Freda, his partner Dr. Jill Levin, was also caring for Gina and her father and so many other COVID-19 patients. They join the tireless, brave and dedicated care team that includes the nurses, respiratory therapists, phlebotomists, patient care technicians and environmental and food services staff to pause and honor the lives of those affected by COVID-19.

D'Amato said that Dr. Freda and all the staff at Baystate Wing Hospital "should be commended for all their hard work and dedication" during this unprecedented pandemic.

"I am grateful that I beat COVID-19 with the help of so many wonderful doctors, nurses and the care team at Baystate Wing. My physical recovery started when got I home, but my emotional recovery has yet to begin. Losing a loved one and not being able to say goodbye with traditional funeral services that bring family and friends together to grieve the loss of a loved one makes closure more difficult. These are very challenging times for my family as I know it is for many other families as well," D'Amato said.

Juried Exhibition of Traditional Realism to be held Sept. 26

WARE — Workshop13 and Northeast Fine Arts have announced their annual juried exhibition of traditional realism will be held on Sept. 26, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Workshop13, 13 Church St.

Online submissions are due Aug. 29, by 9 p.m., with awards in seven categories. There will also be a best of show award, which brings with it \$1,000. The categories include oil, acrylic

(including casein and egg tempera), and water color painting, sculpture, drawing/graphics, pastel and mixed media.

The plan for a live exhibit is pending current circumstances. If necessary, the venue may be changed to an all online exhibition.

For more information go online to www.workshop13.org/gallery.

Boy Scout Troop 281 Bottle, Can Drive

WARE — Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we are unable to hold a drop off based Bottle and Can drive at this time. However, if you have four or more bags of bottles and cans, as many as you have, the troop is more than

willing to set up a pick up at peoples' homes. Please contact Scoutmaster Dan Flynn at 413-297-5886 or email scoutdad281@charter.net. Thank you for the continued support of your local Boy Scout program.

Retire American flags with the Legion, Scouts

WARE — Please drop off worn American flag to the American Legion Post, 45 Maple St. in the bin next to the red shed or the Ware River News office, 80 Main St., during business hours. On Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, the Earle F. Howe American Legion Post 123 and Ware Boy Scout Troop 281 will be retiring all flags. Anyone with questions should contact Scoutmaster Dan Flynn at 413-297-5886 or email scoutdad281@charter.net.

please recycle this newspaper

ELECTION from page 1

Health; Lisa A. Boucher, of 32 Jones St., is running for a three-year term on the Park Commission; Bruce Martin, of 122 High St., is running for a three-year term as assessor; Joan A. Lavigne, of 65 Prospect St., is running for a three-year term on the Sewer Commission; Daniel R. Zrate, of 209 Maple St., is running for a three-year term on the Cemetery Commission and Edward F. Londergan, of 90 Bragg Road, is running for a one-year term on the Planning Board. Drue C. King, of 281 Bragg Road is running for a two-year term on

the Planning Board; Richard J. Eichacker, of 59 Burbank Ave., is running for a three-year term on the Planning Board and Francis T. Holmes, of 11 Constitution Ave., is running for a five-year term on the Housing Authority.

There are four open seats on the Quaboag Regional School Committee: two candidates are elected from Warren and two candidates are elected from West Brookfield, as the two towns make up the school district.

Matthew J. Peloquin, of 453 Keys Road and Andrew D. Schwenker, of 1015 Reed St., both of Warren, and Tracy L. Waz, of 33 Milk St., and James

C. Wilson III, of 91 Birch Hill Road, both of West Brookfield, are the four candidates running for School Committee.

Warren and West Warren precincts will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone with questions should contact Warren Town Clerk Nancy J. Lowell at 413-436-5701, ext. 3.



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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EDITORIAL

Celebrating the Class of 2020

By Elise Linscott

This year's graduation season undoubtedly looks different, as does most everything during these unprecedented times.

I can only imagine what seniors have gone through over the last few months, from learning in March that the school year would end online to finding ways to stay motivated and lift each other up as they reach the end of their high school journey.

I've heard stories from local principals and members of school communities who know these students' final months have been shortchanged, and who've done their best to organize physically distant events and creative new projects to make sure graduates know how proud their community is of them and bring smiles to their faces as they celebrate the completion of their high school career.

Finishing high school is no small feat. It takes persistence, dedication and focus. Sometimes it takes a little nudge from parents, teachers and friends, too.

In my senior year of high school, I remember feeling nostalgic, looking back on not only the last four years but on everything it took to get to that point, including the friends, knowledge and life skills I picked up along the way that I hoped would propel me forward into my new, adult life.

To the Class of 2020, I'd like to offer a warm congratulations.

No one could have anticipated that the school year would end under these circumstances, but that's what life's about – learning to go with the flow, to handle whatever situation we find ourselves in, and to remember that life and its circumstances are ever-evolving, offering us the opportunity to step back and observe each moment, then choose which path we want to take toward the people we want to be.

I'm proud of all of you for reaching this milestone, and I wish all the best as you move forward. I hope you all are able to celebrate in whatever way feels best for you, and know that you have the support of the community behind you every step of the way.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

How do I apply with Social Security offices closed?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am 64 years old and would like advice on how to move forward to apply for Social Security now instead of waiting until I am the "magic" age of 66.5 years. Signed: Ready for Retirement

Dear Ready for Retirement: All Social Security offices are currently closed to public visits, but they are still providing telephone services (although telephone wait times are usually longer these days). You can apply over the phone if you wish. However, the most efficient way to apply for your Social Security benefit, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, is to apply online. You will need to create your personal "My Social Security" account prior to applying online, but that is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. For information, Social Security uses a "two-factor" identification process for security purposes, usually by asking you to enter, in addition to your password, a special ID code sent to your cell phone (or email).. Once you have set up your personal account, you can use the online application process at www.ssa.gov/retire.

Here is a link to a short video from Social Security which explains the online application process: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/icclaim_r01.htm. When you start the online process, be sure to write down the reentry code, which will allow you to save

Please see SSI, page 5

Late spring border is ripe with blues

By high summer there are very few perennial flowers blooming in shades of blue. We best enjoy them now, while we can. Blue flowers abound in the late spring border! You could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones. Here are my selections:

For the back of the border, try *Amsonia tabernaemontana*. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star. Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, *Amsonia* almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like peony or dictamus. Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden, it self-sows, but not usually enough to make itself a nuisance.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is *Baptisia australis*, or false indigo. Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid-June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, *Baptisia* is a nice specimen perennial; one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish. Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised. Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn floral arrangements.

One of my favorite blue flowers is *Aquilegia vulgaris*. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grew the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village. It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tended to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe, perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue. If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult; maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals? Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or partial shade will grow decent two-foot to two-and-a-half-foot wispy plants, a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials. There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade. For years I managed to keep a clump going; it finally succumbed to chipmunks who demolished the plant trying to get at the flowers and seed pods. At 18 inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

If you are still in need of more blue flowers, there are also numerous iris, lavender, campanula and spiderwort cultivars waiting to be discovered. Have fun planning a cool border this summer.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to the Scouts

The Ware Historical Society and the Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House would like it to be known that the Ware Boy Scouts of Troop 281 under the direction of Scoutmaster Daniel Flynn were responsible for placing the field of flags in front of the Ware Center Meeting House. Using strategy and good sense, the Scouts and their families took turns placing flags to avoid contamination in this time of pandemic. The flags were carefully placed in measured precision for this special presentation of the tenth annual Ware Remembers, being shown on WareTV.org.

The Scouts of Troop 281 have been incredible allies to the town in helping to preserve history, to enhance public spaces, and to honor those who have passed. This Memorial Day event might never have taken place without their support.

The Ware Historical Society would like to express their gratitude to Troop 281 and Scoutmaster Dan Flynn.

Julie Bullock
Ware Historical Society

Please vote on June 16

As people across the country, and beyond, peacefully protest, one message is repeated, a reminder for us all to vote. Here in Warren we have the opportunity to do so from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16. Voting will take place in Warren at the Shepard Building on High Street and West Warren at the Senior Center. Both have been set up under the supervision of Town Clerk, Nancy Lowell, with appropriate distancing according to rules during the Covid situation. Please vote if you have not taken advantage of early voting by mail.

Peg Gorman
Warren

Thanks for all the support

I am writing to you all today to send my sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love and support shown to myself and my family over the past couple of months as we have been fighting a medical battle that nobody should have to face. Your kindness and generosity has eased some of the burden we are facing and will continue to face in the coming times.

To Aspen St. Rod & Gun Club: Thank you for a delicious dinner and for opening up your doors to host the benefit that took place in February. It was an amazing turnout and your hospitality will never be forgotten.

To the citizens and business of Ware and the surrounding towns: Thank you for your support and donations for the raffle items and for attending the benefit. The amount of raffle prizes was overwhelming and it goes to show how much of an amazing and supportive community Ware has been and always will be.

To my family and friends: Words cannot even begin to express the gratitude I have for you all. I am truly lucky to be surrounded by each and every one of you. Stay well and take care of each other.

All my Love,

Tara Blodgett, Chris Morin, Austin and Owen

When barn swallows truly rule the roost

Looking at life from a bird's eye view is a unique perspective. A bird's eyesight far surpasses normal, human eyesight. And, a barn swallow can spy from the sky a spec of a meal. Dive to dine. Swoop. Scoop. Done deal. Fast Food. Meal appeal.

As tiny, yet as mighty as barn swallows are, they are experts at winging it. Everything. As a matter of fact, there have been and still are having times when they absolutely "rule the roost." In plain words, they are the dominating and principle owner of any place they perch and plan to settle their brood-to-be.

Also, like children, barn swallows play in fields, meadows, and barnyards. After late spring and early summer rains, they kid around in mud puddle pools. Then, as grown up, work-a-birds, they craft mud-grass nests that invariably get plastered against a building, or hung out in a barn nook, or tucked under eaves. Their nests are built specifically, annually, however, and wherever they intend to rule the roost. Their realm. They rule.

And, for the third year, any and all attempts at maintaining a private entry, free from the 30 to 40 mile per hour takeoff and landing flight patterns have failed. Neither barn-red broom brush, nor shiny, reflecting tree-trim wrapped on the under-the-eaves, light post fixture-- only one foot from the front door-- has deterred their roost!

Enter and exit barn swallows: birds that are often monogamous-partners soaring, darting and spending hundreds of hours creating a mud-pie-thatched nest for the coming brood. The batch of three to eight eggs needs at least 2-3 weeks of incubation before they hatch. About three weeks later they can fly from the nest as fledglings.

Enter and exit humans: who knock on the front door when leaving. "We gotta let them know when we're going out. 'Don't want to startle them and have bird's nest bombshells all over."

Leading the way, The Hub grabs his Mrs. hand. Scampering down the front walkway, they carefully avoid Barn Swallow

cement-laden bombshells and dive bombing birds.

"You'd think nailing the red broom bristles on the front door frame and wrapping the shiny Christmas trim around the porch light this year would stop them from building a nest!" he said.

"I remember barn swallow on our family's farm. Determined sky divers. They'd swoop down inches from the ground and our cats packed paw-punches at them!"

Nowadays, when not nestled on the nest, Mr. and Mrs. Swallow perch high atop a single lawn lantern. From their birds-eye view they inspect each human action. Every. Single. Step. And, they tilt their heads while listening to every single word.

The nest is full. The eggs will hatch. The fledglings shall fly. Mr. and Mrs. Barn Swallow will be feeding, teaching, and training their brood to navigate, soar and migrate. And, yes—we'll always remember the on-going, annual times, trips and trials when barn swallows rule the roost.

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2020 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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Plan for hurricanes, tropical storms

FRAMINGHAM – The start of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30, has begun. While the majority of tropical storms and hurricanes that have impacted New England occurred during the months of August and September, now is the time to begin preparing yourself, your family, your home and your business. Throughout hurricane season, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency will share preparedness information to help residents be aware of, and prepare for, the impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes.

While continuing to respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency remains committed to ensuring the commonwealth is prepared for other disasters, including hurricanes and tropical storms. As hurricane season begins, MEMA is actively planning for how to respond to disasters while considering the public health challenges of COVID-19.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seasonal outlook predicts an above normal number of hurricanes this season. Regardless of the seasonal forecast, it only takes one storm to make landfall and severely impact an area. Tropical Storm Irene, which produced devastating flooding in Central and Western Massachusetts in 2011, is a reminder that hurricanes and tropical storms can impact many areas of the commonwealth, not just coastal regions, and that all Massachusetts residents need to prepare for the possibility of hurricane impacts. To learn more about the hazards associated with hurricanes and tropical storms, visit MEMA's hurricane webpage at www.mass.gov/mema/hurricanes.

"The coronavirus public health emergency won't stop the threat of hurricanes, and in many ways makes responding to other disaster even more challenging. We have adjusted our planning to ensure that we are prepared and want residents to be prepared, as well," said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips. "The beginning of hurricane season is a great opportunity for all residents of the Commonwealth to learn if they live in a hurricane evacuation zone, make an emergency plan, assemble an emergency kit, and stay informed. This is especially true for the 2020 hurricane season as we continue to manage the complexity of COVID-19."

MEMA hurricane season preparedness activities

MEMA is working closely with the Department of Public Health and the newly established Pandemic Disaster Mass Care Working Group to develop guid-

ance for evacuations and mass care during COVID-19. This guidance will be provided to municipalities to inform their planning and preparedness for hurricane season and will be used to adjust the Commonwealth's mass care and evacuation plans to help keep individuals both safe and healthy during a disaster.

Working in partnership with the Emergency Support Function Team and with local partners some of the steps MEMA is taking to prepare for the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19 include re-evaluating capacities of state-initiated regional shelter sites; preparing for the need for additional evacuation transportation vehicles; adding screening, sanitization, disinfection and general public health protocols to existing mass care plans; and planning for and preparing to provide sheltering in non-congregate settings such as hotels.

Evacuation zone

Massachusetts has defined hurricane evacuation zones, designated as Zone A, Zone B and Zone C, for areas of the state at risk for storm surge flooding associated with tropical storms or hurricanes. If evacuations are necessary because of a tropical storm or hurricane, local or state officials will notify people living, working, or vacationing in evacuation zones to leave the area for their safety. Even areas not directly along a coastline may be at risk for storm surge flooding during a tropical storm or hurricane. Find out if you live, work, or vacation in a hurricane evacuation zone by visiting the 'Know Your Zone' interactive map located on MEMA's website at www.mass.gov/knowyourzone.

Emergency plan

Develop a plan with the members of your household to prepare for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in a tropical storm or hurricane. An emergency plan should include:

- Meeting locations
- Emergency contact information
- Evacuation plans
- Shelter-in-place plans
- Considerations for family members with access and functional needs, and pets

For more information, see: [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan).

Build an emergency kit

Build an emergency kit containing items that will sustain you and your family in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. Emergency kits are particularly important during hurricane season, due to potential extended power outages, flooding and

impassable debris-covered roads. While it is important to customize your kit to meet the unique needs of you and your family, every emergency kit should include bottled water, food, a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries, a first-aid kit, sanitation items, and clothing. Depending on your family's needs, emergency kits should also include medications, extra eyeglasses, medical equipment and supplies, children's items such as diapers and formula, food and supplies for pets and service animals, and other items you or your family members might need during a disaster. For a complete emergency kit checklist, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>.

Stay informed

Receiving advance warnings and timely emergency alerts and information from public officials is critical to staying safe during a tropical storm or hurricane. Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, social media and traditional Media, 2-1-1 Hotline, local notification systems: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>.

MEMA

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA's staff of professional planners, communications specialists and operations and support personnel is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses - MEMA ensures the commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover. For additional information about MEMA and emergency preparedness, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

Continue to follow MEMA updates on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MassEMA](https://twitter.com/MassEMA); Facebook at www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA; and YouTube at www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA.

until the New Normal where there is either an effective treatment or a vaccine."

She also noted that people who cannot wear masks due to medical conditions should be considerate of how much interaction they have with people outside of those they may have been staying at home.

"There are risks, comfortability and decisions people must weight at this time," said Metcalf. "For some people, they might feel more comfortable taking a risk if they are in good health or young. These are personal decisions based on a number of factors."

For those looking to for guidance about Phase II and reopening, Metcalf recommends contacting the local board of health or her office.

activities outside of the home and maintaining that six-foot distance from one another."

Metcalf said people must consider three factors as the state moves forward into Phase II.

"You need to think through that people are better protected only when everyone is wearing a mask and if you cannot wear one, it may be better to consider being safer at home," Metcalf said. "Safer at home is the idea that if you able to stay at home, or work from home, you should. It is still about limiting

when, where and why in the submission, preferably written in the third person unless it is a first person letter to the editor or guest column.

• Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title, if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo.

• Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution direct-

ly off your camera, or sized at least 20 inches wide at 72 resolution, 10 inches wide at 200 resolution. They may be emailed as attachments to ekennedy@turley.com.

• Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before they take place.

We will respond to all email messages received.

How to submit photos and news

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send us their hometown news and photos.

• News items and press releases should be sent in an email to the news editor at ekennedy@turley.com as either an MS Word document attachment saved as text only, or pasted directly into your email message screen. Be sure to include who, what,

If you don't have e-mail, please mail these materials to:

80 Main Street, Ware MA 01082



Second Chance counting on golf tournament to help pets in need

Moves annual fundraiser to new golf course due to COVID-19 restrictions

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services has announced plans to host the 8th annual golf tournament with a new venue and date to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. The tournament will now be held July 25 at Heritage Country Club, in Charlton, and golfers are currently limited to 76 carts in accordance with state guidance. People living in the same household will be able to ride together.

"With our major fundraiser postponed to the fall, Second Chance is counting on the annual golf tournament to provide much needed funding for pets in need," said Development Director Lindsay Doray. "We moved the fundraiser because Heritage Country Club offers more options to ensure we can safely host the event including the ability to offer outdoor dining or take-away meals for the traditional post-golf luncheon." Doray and the venue are closely monitoring the evolving situation and have several contingency plans in place.

Several foursomes have already signed up, but Second Chance recognizes there will be some who are not able to attend the fundraiser this year. The nonprofit is adding an online silent auction where everyone can bid on items in advance, including a pair of Adirondack chairs handmade and donated by the Hampden County Sheriff's Office. The online auction link will be available on the website in July.

Interested golfers can purchase tickets online at secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome. Second Chance encourages golfers to purchase tickets early due to limited ticket availability. Mulligans are also available online or during check-in the morning of the tournament. Check-in will be 7 a.m. and the tournament will commence at 7:30 a.m.

Second Chance is a nonprofit 501c3 tax exempt organization that began in 1999 in East Brookfield



Turley Publications courtesy photo
Eighteen-year-old Lee, currently available for adoption at the Second Chance Adoption Center in East Brookfield. The nonprofit will hold its 8th annual golf tournament to raise money to help animals.

and relies solely on donations from grants to operate. The organization operates an adoption center in East Brookfield, Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester. Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets a year through adoption, spay/neuter, veterinary care, community outreach, educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry. For more information, visit Second Chance's website at www.secondchanceanimals.org.

Bill passed to preserve municipal governance during COVID-19

BOSTON – Gov. Baker has signed a bill passed by the Massachusetts State Senate and Massachusetts House of Representatives last Thursday, to provide governance and fiscal flexibility for many municipalities grappling with public health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our local partners and municipalities require flexibility and assistance if they're going to continue serving residents to their full extent without delay," said state Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer). "I am glad the governor acted swiftly to pass this into law, and I applaud the work of my colleagues for working effectively to meet the needs of our local governments."

Building off of other legislation that gave municipalities operat-

ing flexibility during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the bill further protects public health and preserves the town meeting structure from continued disruptions caused by the state of emergency.

The bill includes the following provisions:

Permits representative town meetings to take place virtually;

Permits quorum reduction for open town meeting to no less than 10% and extends the quorum reduction to representative town meetings;

Allows town meeting to be held outside the geographic limits of the town; and

Permits a municipal election scheduled through June 31 to be extended to Aug. 1 at the latest.

By providing our municipalities

with this much-needed flexibility, the bill preserves public access to the proceedings of town governance and protects the public from the continued health risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The bill also provides our city governments with fiscal relief by allowing mayors to delay their normal budget submission deadline for fiscal 2021 in light of the state of emergency.

Finally, among other provisions, the bill strengthens the prohibition on terminating essential services for residents during the COVID-19 emergency and provides municipalities and regional school districts flexibility in paying school bus and other vendor contracts.

For more information on the bill, please contact Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

Finally, if you are still working, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test until you reach your full retirement age. If you start benefits mid-year 2020, you'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,520, and if you exceed that limit you won't be eligible for benefits for that month. The following years you'll be subject to an annual limit, until you reach your FRA when there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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St. Mary's Church holding Polish food sale

WARE — St. Mary's Church in Ware will be holding a Polish Food Sale on Saturday, July 11. Pierogi (\$10 per dozen), golombki (3 for \$10), and kapusta (\$6 per quart) will be available for purchase. Curbside pickup only. You will be designated a pick-up time when placing your order. Payment should be exact amount, either check made out to St. Mary's Church, or cash and placed in an envelope with your name, phone number and payment amount. Please call Sylvia at 413-436-9268 or Diane at 413-967-5207 to pre-order. All orders must be received by Sunday, July 5. No orders will be taken after July 5, no exceptions.

Census bureau opens area offices

The U.S. Census Bureau, in coordination with federal, state and local health officials, is opening Area Census Offices in Boston, Lawrence, Quincy, East Bridgewater, Watham and Worcester and will begin to drop off 2020 Census questionnaire packets at front doors in rural areas of Massachusetts this week.

Currently, Massachusetts ranks 20th in the country with a self-response rate of 62.3 percent. However, major cities and rural areas, many consisting of hard to count census tracts, lag below the national average of 60.2 percent. Current internet self-response rates are 9.3 percentage points above Census Bureau projections, as households continue to favor online to phone and mail in responding to the census. In a video message, Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham thanked people for responding to reach this milestone and encouraged those, who have not responded to help shape their future for the next 10 years.

Temporary field staff have been trained to observe all social distancing protocols and will wear official government-provided personal protective equipment for their safety and the safety of the public. This operation is contact less and follows the most current federal health and safety guidelines.

Census takers are scheduled to begin visiting households Aug. 11 to count the remainder of the population that has not yet responded online, by phone, or by using the paper form in the packet.

House approves bill offering expanded voting options for 2020 state and municipal elections

BOSTON — The House of Representatives has approved legislation that would allow Massachusetts voters to safely participate in upcoming state and local elections using expanded early voting and mail-in voting options.

House Bill 4768, An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19, was engrossed by the House on a vote of 155-1 on June 4, and will now move to the Senate for further action.

State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) said House Bill 4768 takes several steps to help minimize the public health risks for voters and poll workers participating in this year's elections. It requires the Secretary of State to mail applications to all registered voters by July 15, and again by Sept. 14, so those who wish to do so can request a vote-by-mail ballot for the Sept. 1 primary and the Nov. 3 general election, respectively. Voters must submit a ballot request to their city or town clerk by Aug. 28 for the primary and by Oct. 30 for the general election, using a pre-paid envelope provided with the application.

House Bill 4768 provides the same application filing cut-off dates for absentee ballot requests, but sets a deadline of noon on the day immediately preceding the election for individuals wishing to cast an absentee ballot in person. Applications, as well as ballots, must be provided in any language required by the bilingual election requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act.

To avoid overcrowding at polling locations on election day, completed early voting ballots can be mailed using a pre-paid return postage envelope, delivered in-person to the local clerk's office, or placed in a secured municipal drop-box, if one is available. Cities and towns will be required to provide early voting hours, including weekend hours, for individuals casting ballots in-person for the primary election from Aug. 22-28, and from Oct. 17-Oct. 30 for the general election.

Smola said House Bill 4768 gives qualified voters the option to vote early by mail for any city or town election held on or before Dec. 31. The bill also authorizes electronic voting signatures to be

used for early voting and absentee ballot applications for all elections held between now and Dec. 31.

To further minimize the public health risks associated with the novel coronavirus and reduce the number of poll workers needed, House Bill 4768 allows municipalities to eliminate the "check-out" table at polling stations for voters casting ballots in-person on election day.

Several additional amendments were added to the bill during floor debate, including language:

allowing municipal clerks to process early ballots as they are received by mail, provided they are kept secured, locked, and unexamined, and no results are announced until after the polls close;

allowing vote-by-mail participants to request certain accommodations from the Secretary of State's office, including authorized blank electronic ballots that can be filled out electronically and printed for mailing;

requiring the Secretary of State to provide regulations by July 15 for electronic poll books to be used for the 2020 state elections

and all future elections; allowing ballot applications to be sent to a mailing address if the address is different than the voter's residential address;

requiring any vote to move a polling place for the primary or general election be taken at least 15 days prior to the election, and requiring the local governing body to evaluate whether this change would adversely impact voter access based on race, national origin, disability, income or age, with a report made publicly available on the municipal website and in the clerk's office no later than 3 days prior to changing a polling place;

establishing the cut-off date for individuals registering to vote for any election taking place on or before Dec. 31, as 10 days prior to the election; and

allowing mail-in ballots for the Nov. 3 general election received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6 to be counted if they are postmarked on or before election day.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

Monson Savings opens new office in Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM — One local bank has announced its plans to move into a new office space this week, having grown out of its previous location.

Monson Savings Bank President Steven Lowell announced, beginning the week of June 1, some personnel will begin moving into a new, 12,000-square-foot office on the top floor of 75 Post Office Park in Wilbraham. The location will be the new Monson Savings Bank Loan & Operations Center.

According to Lowell, the new center will house commercial lending, residential lending, collections, compliance, retail administration, retail operations, business development, municipal banking and e-banking departments.

"Because of our growth we have actually 'grown out' of some of our spaces," Lowell said in a press release. "The residential and commercial loan centers have been doing their best to accommodate all personnel but the fact is we just don't have enough room."

Lowell said more details about the new Loan & Operations Center will be announced soon.

For more information, visit www.monsonsavings.bank.

Select board accepts Charter proposal

NEW BRAINTREE — Wednesday, May 27, the New Braintree select board voted to accept a proposal by Charter Communications to construct a network that will provide coverage of at least 96% percent of residential premises located along the public right of way in town.

The town will be working with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to utilize a grant award to Charter and the town will be responsible for a balance of \$342,400, payable to the state over a 20-year period. New Braintree residents will have the opportunity to use all of Charter Communications resources, not only internet. This project will take approximately two years to complete.

Plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients

SPRINGFIELD — Actor Tom Hanks has done it. So has his wife Rita Wilson. Several NBA players, too, and now singer Andrea Bocelli.

They have all donated convalescent plasma to help in the fight against COVID-19. Now, community members may be able to donate their convalescent plasma locally at Baystate Medical Center.

"Baystate is pleased to announce the initiation of a new aspect to its Blood Donor Center operations joining with hospitals nationwide in seeking plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients. This new program initiative, termed 'Hemotherapy Heroes,' recognizes the important role these patient donors play in treatment efforts to combat the pandemic. Their plasma may help save the life of someone fighting desperately to recover from this deadly novel coronavirus infection" said Chester Andrzejewski, Ph.D., M.D., medical director of system blood banking and transfusion medicine services a Baystate Health.

More than 130 patient donors, who have recovered from their COVID-19 viral illness, have

already reached out to Baystate's Blood Donor Center to donate their convalescent plasma.

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection. Convalescent plasma is being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19 because there is no approved treatment for the disease, and there is information that suggests it might help some patients recover from COVID-19.

Those who have had COVID-19 and are fully recovered, may be able to help save the lives of other COVID-19 patients by donating plasma. This plasma now contains COVID-19 antibodies, which helped one's immune system to defeat the virus and may be able to help others who are now infected with the disease.

To qualify, donors must be able to meet routine blood donation eligibility requirements; must have a prior COVID-19 diagnosis documented by a laboratory test; must

be fully recovered for at least 28 days; and must be willing to authorize Baystate Health access to their medical record for the purpose of determining eligibility for COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation.

Those who meet the requirements and want to donate their plasma can fill out a plasma donation data form at <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/blood-donor/covid19-plasma> to begin the evaluation process.

Those who haven't had COVID-19 and still want to help can consider donating blood.

A single whole blood donation at Baystate Medical Center can save up to two lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply. Donor centers have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Blood is needed every day to provide life-saving treatments to patients with a variety of medical and surgical conditions.

During the pandemic crisis, Baystate Health has relocated its blood donation operations to 361 Whitney Ave. in Holyoke.

The Blood Donor Center is open daily: Monday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are given priority and can be made by calling 413-794-4600. However, platelet donations at Whitney Avenue are scheduled by appointment only.

Those donating whole blood must be in good health, be at least 17 years of age, and weigh at least 110 pounds.

Per the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, whole blood donors should refrain from blood donations for 14 days if they have had any symptoms of COVID-19 or have had a positive diagnostic test (nasal swab test) for COVID-19.

For more information, contact the Baystate Health Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600 with questions or to make an appointment, or visit the Blood Donor Program on the Baystate Health website at <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/blood-donor>.

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CLUES ACROSS

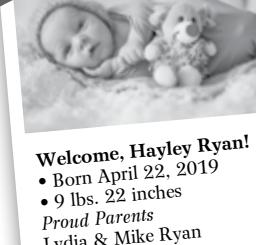
- 1. American composer
- 6. Very fast aircraft
- 9. Workplaces
- 13. A mount on a surface
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Double-reed instrument
- 16. Canadian flyers
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Smooth, shiny fabric
- 19. Profited
- 21. Conspiracy
- 22. Infections
- 23. Chum
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Resistance unit
- 28. Sound unit
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- 31. Crease
- 33. Polished
- 36. For goodness' sake!
- 38. College basketball tournament
- 39. Scorches

CLUES DOWN

- 41. Describe precisely
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Frocks
- 46. Indicates near
- 48. Senior enlisted US Army member
- 49. A note added to a letter
- 51. A nose or snout
- 52. Clumsy
- 54. Satisfied to the fullest
- 56. Display of strong feeling
- 59. Confines
- 60. Popular awards show
- 61. Cuisine style
- 62. Expresses pleasure
- 63. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 64. Utah city
- 65. Fight
- 66. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 67. Body part
- 68. Suspiciously reluctant
- 71. Fruit of the service tree
- 73. Mongolian city
- 74. Bator
- 75. Strongboxes
- 76. Russian river
- 77. Gurus
- 78. Horse mackerel
- 79. Pearl Jam's debut
- 80. Clumsy
- 81. Confines
- 82. First month of Jewish calendar
- 83. Ecclesiastical year
- 84. Fencing swords
- 85. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 86. Hymn
- 87. Helps little firms
- 88. Pointed end of a pen
- 89. Flemish names
- 90. Ypres
- 91. Small lake
- 92. Linear unit
- 93. Central Japanese city
- 94. Sports award
- 95. Part of your foot
- 96. Atomic #21



Birth Announcements



Welcome, Hayley Ryan!
• Born April 22, 2019
• 9 lbs. 22 inches
Proud Parents
Lydia & Mike Ryan

To submit your announcement complete this form and send to Ware River News, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082
Or email: ekennedy@turley.com

Baby's First Name:	_____
Parents (names & hometown):	_____
Siblings (names & hometown):	_____
Maternal Grandparents (names & hometown):	_____
Paternal Grandparents (names & hometown):	_____
Birthdate:	_____ Additional info: _____



Near Snow's Pond Baltimore orioles could be seen the day after the last snow feeding on orange halves put out for them.



Turley Publications courtesy photos

Many different kinds of birds are seen in this Ware backyard near Snow's Pond. The birds often land on the bells making them ring as they come to feed.

Birds ring the bells

WARE – The Town Hall bells aren't the only ones ringing. These photos were taken near Snow's Pond in Ware. The first photo was taken the day after it last snowed. The birds enjoy landing on the bells near the bird-feeders, making them ring. This resident has multiple Baltimore orioles (as shown in the photos), in addition to tufted titmice, various woodpeckers, and even an unusual bald cardinal. The

feathers on the cardinal's head have fallen off, exposing the black skin underneath. At one point they saw three pileated woodpeckers at the same time on one tree.



Treasurer Ashley Opalenik, Class President Saebra Delaney, Historian Jason Desjardins, Secretary Caitlyn Sigovitch, and Class Representative Emily Latulippe.

PATHFINDER from page 1

thing we can for these graduates – they've been shortchanged."

Assistant Principal Carrie Auffrey and Director of Guidance Brenda Turner, who were the event organizers, have been planning for this event for over a month, and timed the execution to ensure the graduating seniors would receive their caps and gowns along with other senior gifts in time for graduation on June 5.

"We wanted to make sure if we were going to do it that it was going to be meaningful; not only the celebration, but also in what we're providing for families," said Turner.

Palmer terminal manager of J.P. McCarthy and Sons, Tricia Brennan, was also responsible for planning the parade by coordinating each of the routes so that each bus would successfully reach each graduating senior.

"I combined a couple of routes that kind of go in the same area, so that we just knock it down to six as opposed to the 13 (buses) that we have," said Brennan.

The senior class officers,



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School staff members and bus drivers leaving the parking lot to officially begin the parade.

Treasurer Ashley Opalenik, President Saebra Delaney, Vice President Savannah Sklarski, Historian Jason Desjardins, Secretary Caitlyn Sigovitch, and Representative Emily Latulippe also assisted with the parade.

After finding that the reminder of their senior year was gone, they decided to put the rest of their

class money into getting gifts for their fellow classmates.

"One of the coolest aspects of this is that we get to say a final goodbye to our classmates," said Latulippe. "Getting to do this sends the message to celebrate one more time together."



Valedictorian Mackenzie Miserka.



Salutatorian Caitlyn Sigovitch.



Class President Saebra Delaney.

Canterbury Tails Veterinary Clinic

Canterbury Tails Veterinary Clinic is a full-service clinic serving Ware and the surrounding communities. We see dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, reptiles and pocket pets. Our clinic is currently accepting new patients, and we look forward to meeting you and your pet. We hope to provide a fear-free experience for both pets and owners.

40 East Main Street, Ware, MA

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canterburytailware@gmail.com

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Tues. 12-8pm, Fri. 7:30-12 noon
Every Other Saturday 7:30-12

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Lawn signs provided by Sign Techniques Inc. in Chicopee show the faces and vocations of the 155 graduating seniors.

PRICING UPDATE: We have some good news to report here at 90 Meat – FALLING PRICES! In addition to our sales items, regular prices of most fresh beef, pork, and chicken dropped for the first time today since before this pandemic started. Now we understand they are not back to "normal" but we anticipate this trend to continue for the next few weeks. We are optimistic that soon we will achieve our ultimate goal of B.C. Pricing – Before Corona Pricing. Please stay tuned as we are working diligently to get our loyal customers the best prices possible.

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Kolodzieys ready to start PVSSL in Phase 3

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW — As the picture becomes clearer, it looks like we will have summer soccer in the Pioneer Valley for high school students.

High school students have been away from one another since March 16, which essentially all education was shut down throughout the Commonwealth. Eventually, all recreation and activity was shut down as well.

Last Saturday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced the provisions of Phase 2 of the re-opening plan as Massachusetts continues to stay on a good course with lowering numbers of coronavirus cases, deaths, and hospitalizations.

With the start of Phase 2, the "cautious" step, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is making plans for its return to action.

Just a few weeks ago, the coordinators of the league, Chris and Diana Kolodziey, were noncommittal about whether or not there would be a season due to the uncertainty surrounding the re-opening and whether it would have to be delayed or scaled back.

However, they were always hopefully of having a season, even with a delayed start.

Normally, the season would start next week, but games will start under Phase 3, called Vigilant. Teams, in groups 10 and under, can start practicing, however, and the Kolodzieys are taking registrations and starting to organize a schedule that would start sometime shortly after June 30.

So far, the governor's plan has gone according to the three-week schedule projects for it, which puts Phase 3 on target for that date.

The summer soccer season would likely last at least four weeks through to the end of July, but could also go into August. Diana Kolodziey said that is still being

determined.

In their preparations for the upcoming season, the Kolodzieys have also pulled the trigger on a brand new website, www.pioneervalleysummersoccerleague.com.

The new site has a new way of registering teams and is designed to move most of the operations online, such as scheduling and reporting scores and other league information.

The Kolodzieys say will be looking out for the guidance from the governor's office on exactly how Phase 3 will be implemented as they look to start the season as soon as possible.

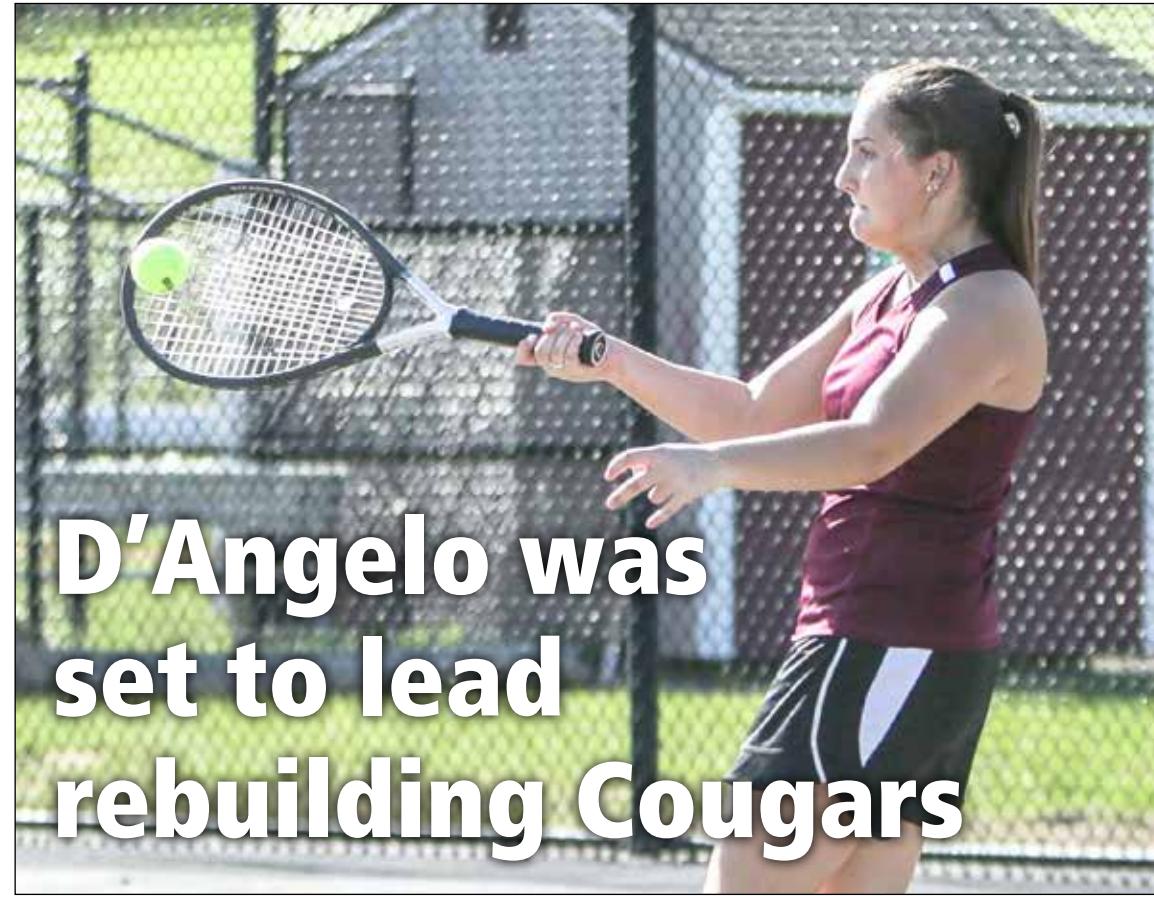
"Our goal is to get players playing and keep everyone safe," the website states. "So we are looking at a quick turnaround to begin play once we get a thumbs up from the Governor's Office. We want the league to be ready to go quickly once this happens."

Teams interested in participating in the league should begin signing up as soon as possible and can email ckolodziey@msn.com for more information. Teams are encouraged to communicate with their school and/or recreation department regarding field availability.

On the new website, there is a link with new rules and regulations for 2020. There will be additional information about such things as social distancing and other safety precautions for the 2020 season. The league is planning to have both the high school and adult seasons.

Based on communications with the various teams that are regularly involved, the Kolodzieys very much want the 2020 summer season to happen.

"Based on the overwhelming feedback we have received," the website states. "Many teams want to move forward and play understanding that we are up against some unfamiliar challenges. The site states there will be a "condensed" season, but it unclear how many regular games will be played.



File photo

Jordan D'Angelo shows a nice forehand stroke during action last season.

Jordan D'Angelo was to be only returning senior

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

WARREN — The Quaboag Regional High School girls tennis team has been one of the most successful teams in Central Massachusetts for the past few years. Often having just a few or no losses during the regular season.

And this has been the case whether the team has been stacked with seniors or in a rebuilding phase.

Coach Norm St. Denis has managed to keep a quality program going.

He was coming of a perfect regular season last year and a senior-stacked squad that graduated.

This year, he only had one senior that was returning to the

lineup, Jordan D'Angelo.

St. Denis said it was a shame D'Angelo would not get to complete a brilliant career this season as she would have had an opportunity to shine as a senior on her own.

"She has been on the team since her freshman year," said St. Denis. "Jordan is an excellent athlete who can play singles or doubles.

"She mostly played doubles with her sister. They were amazing together for the past two seasons. Jordan is a great kid who has a strong work ethic both in the classroom and in athletics. I was fortunate to be the first-year coach of the girls soccer team that Jordan was an important member of. With tennis being cancelled, I am glad that I was able to coach Jordan her senior year

of soccer, even if it was in a sport that I didn't plan on coaching. I also taught Jordan this year in Precalculus class and she is my teacher's intern. So I will really miss her."

St. Denis said the Cougars would have had their work cut out for them last year with a number of players having to step up and play in roles they had little experience with.

"We graduated seven players, many of them playing for points," said St. Denis. "So this was to be somewhat of a rebuilding year. We were returning our number one player, Emma Aberle (sophomore), which was awesome. Abby Bouchard (junior) was a number one doubles player for the past two seasons.

Please see COUGARS, page 14

Valley Wheel Baseball looking at early July open

REGION — The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is projecting tryouts in late June with an early July start to the game schedule. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

Spec Pond League will have no fans



The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League is planning to have basketball this summer once Phase 3 of the re-opening plan begins in Massachusetts.

Other rules will be implemented as necessary for the outdoor league

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

WILBRAHAM — One of first youth sports the area could see will be based out of Spec Pond in Wilbraham sometime next month.

Only this summer, it could look a lot different for a while.

For several years, the Spec Pond Summer Basketball has been both a nightly and a weekend gathering place for many young basketball players and their families, which

utilize the surrounding amenities during games.

Bryan Litz, the director of Wilbraham Parks and Recreation, organizes the league each year. He welcomes many teams from out of town, including Agawam, Southwick, Springfield, Ludlow, Belchertown, Ware, Chicopee, Palmer, and even as far as Sturbridge.

There are divisions ranging from third and fourth graders all the way up to the high school level. There are both boys and girls teams and the typical night has games being played every hour from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the two outdoor courts. Area schools are utilized in the event games must be made up due to rain.

The season carries on through

July and early August and then playoffs happen in mid-August with the championships concluding right before the start of youth football season.

Litz confirmed the league is planning to start if and when the state enters Phase 3, which is currently on track to happen on June 30.

While Phase 3 lists "limited crowds" as part of the ability to resume athletic contests at the youth level, Litz has said the main parameter of starting the season will be that no fans will be allowed.

"There will be a maximum of three coaches on the bench and at games," said Litz. "But once we see what guidance the state gives, then we will also implement other rules."

The Spec Pond league will be the first basketball that takes place in area since high school basketball was shutdown just shy of the state finals. In youth basketball, the Szsatz Memorial Tournament in Chicopee was just beginning when the state banned all recreational activities.

As the state continues its re-opening process, it is possible the Spec Pond League will be able to ease some restrictions in Phase 4, if that phase is implemented sometime in July. Each phase of the governor's plans is supposed to last three weeks if there are no setbacks. There is a registration packet now available online for the league. To access it, go to <https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=specpond>.

Coins on sale now to fund education programs

SPRINGFIELD — Located in the Birth City of Basketball, Springfield, Mass., the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame promotes and preserves the game of basketball at every level. Since the Basketball Hall of Fame opened its doors in 1959, it has operated as a not for profit organization relying on the generosity of others to preserve the legacy of the game. On Thursday, June 4, basketball fans will have the opportunity to own a piece of basketball history and support the Hall of Fame with the purchase of a newly launched commemorative coin.

This milestone concludes a multi-year effort by Congressman Richard Neal, Congressman Andy Barr, and Senators Elizabeth Warren and the late John McCain, along with countless Hall of Fame members, to make this coin a reality.

"This endeavor has been years in the making and we couldn't be more excited to be launching a commemorative coin with the U.S. Mint this week," said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "These coins are a unique opportunity for fans to own a piece of basketball history while supporting the Hall and the game itself, as the funds generated will allow us to bolster our endowment, educational programs and ever-growing portfolio of events."

To commemorate this historic day, the Hall of Fame offered a limited quantity of coins for sale to the general public on June 4 from noon to 2 p.m. Coins will be available on a first-come-first-served basis and orders will be limited to one coin type/finish per person, while supplies last. Customers should enter the South Side of the property (Hilton Garden Entrance) where Hall of Fame staff will provide instructions. State of Massachusetts directives regarding Covid-19 protocols will be followed.

Mintage for this commemorative coin program is limited to 50,000 \$5 gold coins, 400,000 silver dollar coins, and 750,000 half dollar coins. Coin prices include surcharges of \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin, and \$5 for each half-dollar coin, which are authorized to be paid to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to fund an endowment that will enable increased operations and educational programming.

Senior athletes being featured

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encourage you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

Meet the GRADUATES



Isabelle Abner



Aaliyah Altieri



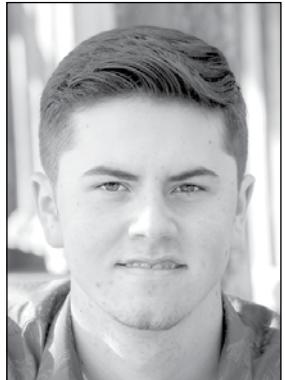
Jayden Aponte



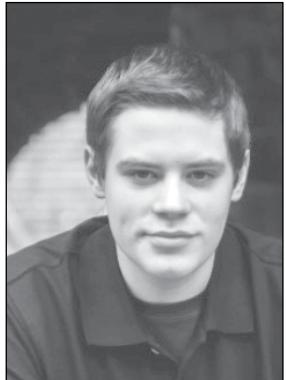
Kaylee Armitage



Adam Bolaske



Ryan Boucher



Patric Boyle



Dante Brodeur



Calagen Bruni



Isabella Clowes



Melanie Como



Jordan D'Angelo



Sarah Delmonte



Kiarra Dorman



Hannah Dumas



Peyton Fellmeth



Amadora Flynn



Adeline Ford



Brenden Gillette



Darien Hannah



Caitlyn Harris



Devin Holmes



Justin Howard



Kaitlyn Howard

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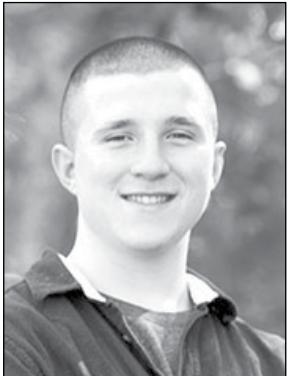
Dominic Huard



Ailin Jack



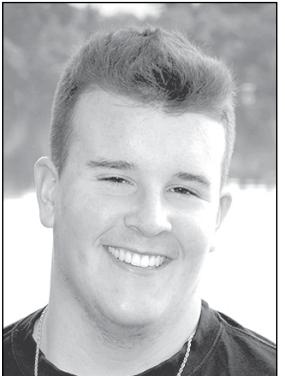
Kaitlyn Katsoulis



Garrett Laurence



Kailee Lindholm



Mitchell Mendenhall



Makenzie Messier



Angelo Moores



Cassidy Morrow



Samantha Morse-Patterson



Brandon Mudd



John Nadeau



Benjamin Nerreau



Alexis Olearczyk



Emily Pease



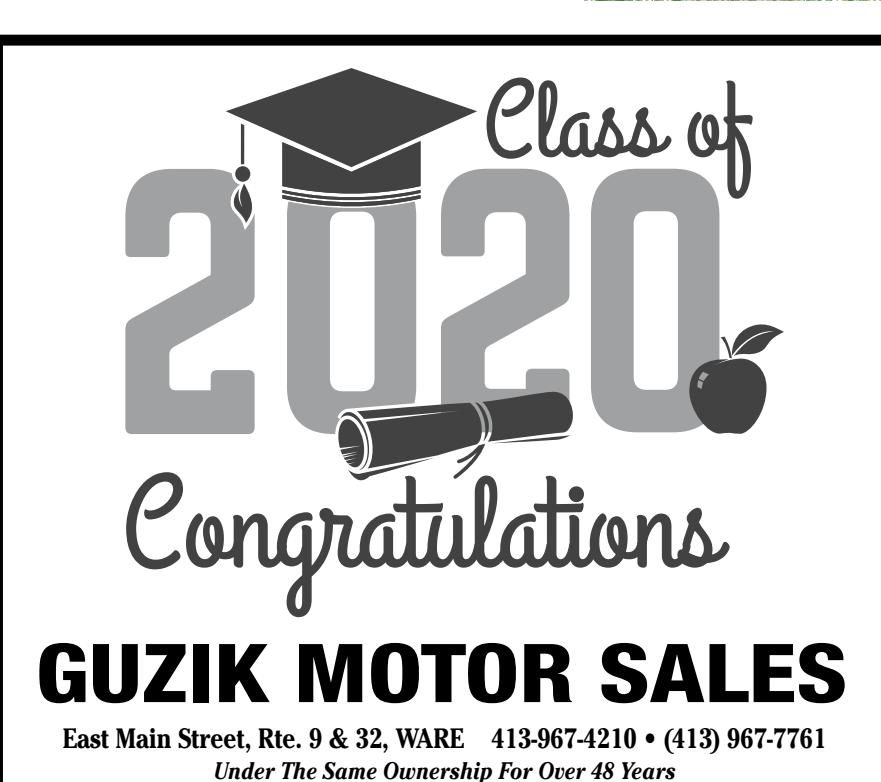
Hayden Perry

Best Wishes to the Class of 2020



Camera Shy GRADS

Zackaria Aitighli
Jessie Bailey
Raymond Brodeur
Trevor Ciborowski
Branden Demers
Nathaniel Easton
Jordan Floria
Liam Grueter
Olivia LaRocco
Jacob Shumway
Kyle Weller
Skye Wirf



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Meet the GRADUATES

Quaboag Regional Middle High School

Class of 2020



Vanessa Ricci



Perry Pultorak



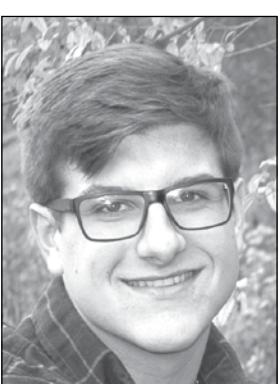
Caitlin Rice



Tadeus Seremeth Jr.



Logan Silva



Thomas Snow



Jarianys Solero



Jacob Toohey



Alison Tytula



Aaron Wells



Cal Wheeler



West Brookfield Elementary School nurse Cheryl Howard gave her daughter, Kaitlyn Howard, her diploma. Justin Howard also received his diploma from his mother.

QUABOAG from page 1

the national anthem sung by Emily Pease, who is also the class salutatorian.

The keynote speaker was former Quaboag student David Marsh, who owns co-owns two medical companies based in California.

"Growing up in Warren in attending Quaboag was not an hindrance, it actually can be an advantage," Marsh said. Receiving a good education at Quaboag, where he became involved in multiple activities, led him to do well in college, and eventually the business world, he said.

A 1979 graduate, he said he was proud to be a Quaboag alumnus. "I grew up in Warren and lived there til I was 18," he said. "I had two great parents who cared a lot about the community and the schools we attended. I thought I was the luckiest kid on the planet, honestly."

He urged the students to try different things and to get involved as they leave high school for the bigger world.

Marsh also suggested the school treat students who have reached academic standing, such as valedictorians, be recognized similarly to the 1,000-point scorers on basketball teams are.

Class President Makenzie Messier, noted that the senior class has been together for the past six years. "Six years ago we were strangers to each other,"

she said, but now having gone through a lot together they have become a close-knit group.

She said she remembered their first day together in seventh grade when then-principal Mary Laffreniere told them their time together would fly by. "I thought she was crazy about how time would fly, but she was right," she said.

Thirteen years ago their parents watched nervously as they went off to school for the first time, she said, as the students were a little anxious but were also convinced something great was about to happen. "We did it together," she said.

She thanked the teachers, administrators and families for all they have done for the Class of 2020.

School Superintendent Dr. Brett Kustigian congratulated the graduates on their hard work and their ability to overcome obstacles put in their way.

"This is by far one of the most unique graduations we have had at Quaboag," he said, telling them this graduation is one of the stories they'll tell in the future.

QRMHS Principal Steven Duff told the class he remembers telling some of them in sixth grade, when he was principal of Warren Community Elementary School, to branch out when they got to the middle and high schools.

"We talked about how there would be adversity, challenging



Makenzie Messier, president of the Class of 2020, speaks to her classmates at QRMHS's graduation.

times and the fact that you, as young adults would overcome them, and my, have you ever," he said. "What I admire most about this group is your ability to pick up the pieces and move on without losing the perspective of cherishing every day."

Valedictorian Caitlin Howard said the Class of 2020 had been through a lot; tragedy, threats against the school, safety concerns and loss. "But we got through it together," she said.

Salutatorian Emily Pease reminded her fellow classmates that no change can be made with silence and urged them to speak up for what is right and against what is wrong.

The crowd often showed their appreciation for the speakers and graduates by beeping their horns throughout the ceremony.

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Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette and Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie were on hand for the QRMHS Class of 2020 graduation.



Many cars of QRMHS families were decorated with congratulations to specific students and the Class of 2020



Families and students stood by their vehicles and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and then sang the national anthem.



Left, QRMHS senior Jayden Aponte, and fellow senior Patric Boyle, await the graduation ceremony last Saturday.



Turley Publications staff photos by Eileen Kennedy
One family knew how to celebrate graduation last Saturday in the back of their pickup truck.

Public safety

Ware Police Log

Sunday, May 31

10:02 a.m. Ambulance Request Glendale Circle – Services Rendered
12:40 p.m. Ambulance Request Old Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
1:05 p.m. Alarm Burglar South Street – False Alarm
7:04 p.m. Fraud North Street – Services Rendered
7:09 p.m. Accident, Vehicle North Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
7:15 p.m. Disturbance Webb Court – Services Rendered
11:46 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Morse Avenue – Services Rendered

Monday, June 1

3:13 a.m. Missing Person Meadow Road – Investigated, Report Filed
1:28 p.m. Suspicious Activity/ Person Prendiville Road – Area Searched Negative Find
1:56 p.m. Alarm Burglar Robbins Road – False Alarm
1:57 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering Shady Path – Investigation Pending
2:15 p.m. Fraud River Road – Services Rendered
2:29 p.m. Trash Dumping Complaint Greenwich Road – Services Rendered
2:36 p.m. Fraud North Street – Services Rendered
5:04 p.m. Ambulance Request Pulaski Street – Referred to Other Agency
5:25 p.m. General Information North Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
5:27 p.m. Assault West Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
5:57 p.m. Fraud North Street – Investigation Pending
10:34 p.m. Stolen Vehicle Report North Street – Investigation Pending

Tuesday, June 2

8:50 a.m. Alarm Burglar Westbrook Avenue – False Alarm
11:19 a.m. Fraud Coffey Hill Road – Services Rendered
2:57 p.m. Alarm Burglar Osborne Road – False Alarm
3:10 p.m. Ambulance Request Lovewell Street – Services Rendered
5:59 p.m. Fraud Warebrook Drive – Investigated, Report Filed
6:31 p.m. Erratic Operator Complaint West Street – Area Searched Negative Find
7 p.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Services Rendered

7:53 p.m. Fraud Kingsberry Lane – Investigation Pending

9 p.m. Ambulance Request Old Poor Farm Road – Referred to Other Agency
9:38 p.m. Disturbance Hillside Village – Services Rendered
9:47 p.m. Vandalism Big Tree Drive – Investigation Pending
10:33 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering Barnes Street – Area Searched Negative Find
10:50 p.m. Accident, Vehicle North Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000

Wednesday, June 3

3:48 a.m. Missing Person Moriarty Road – Services Rendered

7:36 a.m. Suspicious Activity/ Person North Street – Services Rendered

8:20 a.m. Fraud North Street – Referred to Other Agency
8:43 a.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Belchertown Road – Services Rendered

9:10 a.m. Fraud Eddy Court – Services Rendered

10:25 a.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Referred to Other Agency

10:37 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Highland Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000

11:06 a.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Terrace – Services Rendered

11:55 a.m. Disturbance Main Street – Area Searched Negative Find

12:25 p.m. Disturbance Main Street – Services Rendered

1:56 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call West Street – Services Rendered

3:38 p.m. Suspicious Activity/ Person Prendiville Road – Area Searched Negative Find

5:22 p.m. Suspicious Activity/ Person Pleasant Street – Services Rendered

6:42 p.m. Disturbance Otis Avenue – Services Rendered

6:44 p.m. Disturbance East Street – Services Rendered

7:22 p.m. Vandalism Old Belchertown Road – Services Rendered

7:43 p.m. Disturbance Warebrook Drive – Advised Civil Action

7:46 p.m. Disturbance West Street – Area Searched Negative Find

8:08 p.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Referred to Other Agency

10:56 p.m. Threat Report North Street – Harassment Order Served

Thursday, June 4

12:05 a.m. Ambulance Request Main Street – Referred to Other Agency

6:09 a.m. Investigation Otis Avenue – Arrest, Felony Charge

Arrest: Alexis Villegas, 38, Ware Drug, Possess to Distribute Class A, Subsequent; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B, Subsequent c94C §32A(b); Drug, Possess Class B; Resist Arrest

Arrest: Jason J. Lizak, 39, Ware Drug, Possess Class A; Drug, Possess Class B; Drug, Possess Class C

Arrest: Bobbie A. Hurley, 38, Ware Drug, Possess Class A; Drug, Possess Class B, Subsequent Offense; Drug, Possess Class E

6:44 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report Pleasant Street – Investigated, Report Filed

8:16 a.m. Accident (Hit and Run) West Street – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge

Arrest: Netasha Leroux, 31, Gilbertville

OUI-Drugs; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Drug, Possess Class B

8:26 a.m. Disturbance Walnut Street – Services Rendered

8:56 a.m. Disorderly Conduct Walnut Street – Services Rendered

9:55 a.m. Trash Dumping Complaint Prendiville Road – Area Searched Negative Find

11:22 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Eddy Street – Services Rendered

11:45 a.m. Ambulance Request Bacon Road – Services Rendered

12:41 p.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Services Rendered

3:56 p.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000

7:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Theft Parker Street – Services Rendered

8:39 p.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Investigated, Report Filed

10:20 p.m. Suspicious Activity/ Person North Street – Advised Civil Action

11 p.m. Arrest North Street – Services Rendered

Friday, June 5

12:37 a.m. Disturbance Otis Avenue – Area Searched Negative Find

5:47 a.m. Ambulance Request Upper North Street – Services Rendered

Hardwick Police Log

Monday, May 25

6:31 p.m. 911 – Misdipl Hardwick Road – No Action Required

Tuesday, May 26

11:31 a.m. Initiated – Harassment Hardwick Road – Services Rendered

1:29 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Investigation Barre Road – Investigated

3:47 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Creamery Road – Transported by Helicopter

10:20 p.m. Phone – Scam Turkey Street – Report Taken

Wednesday, May 27

3:03 p.m. 911 – Misdipl North Street – Services Rendered

5:27 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued

Thursday, May 28

10:21 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Joslyn Road – Report Taken

10:57 a.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Ridge Road – Spoken To

New Braintree Police Log

Monday, May 25

6:41 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Worcester Road – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, May 26

10:29 a.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Services Rendered

1:42 p.m. 911 – Misdipl Gilbertville Road – Checked/Secured

5:29 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Oakham Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, May 27

5:29 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Citation Issued

Friday, May 29

1:16 a.m. Phone – Alarm Memorial Drive – No Action Required

Saturday, May 30

3:35 p.m. Phone – Complaint/ Motor Vehicle Operations Dennis Whitney Road – Negative Contact

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

FEMA releases state-by-state PPE data

Staff Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As FEMA, under the direction of the White House Task Force, has led the whole-of-America response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the past two months, billions of essential resources and protective equipment have been delivered throughout the nation.

As of May 14, FEMA, HHS and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of, or are shipping more than 97 million respirators, 133.7 million surgical masks, 10.5 million face shields, 22.4 million surgical gowns, 989 million gloves, 10,600 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.

In Massachusetts, 1.4 million N95 respirators, 564,408 gloves, 369,557 face shields, 737,120 surgical masks and 400 ventilators

were delivered.

As of May 14, FEMA has obligated more than \$55.4 million in federal support to Massachusetts.

As of May 6, several alternate care sites are operating in Massachusetts: Boston Convention and Exposition Center, DCU Center in Worcester, Newton Pavilion and the Former Kindred Hospital in Boston and hotels and skilled nursing centers throughout the Commonwealth.

As of May 14, one Battelle N95 decontamination unit is operational in Boston/Somerville area.

In support of the White House Task Force's testing initiative, FEMA is supporting the procurement of specimen collection supplies to supplement the supplies states and healthcare providers are procuring from the private market. To date we have supplied 220,000 swabs and 102,700 units

of media to Massachusetts.

The federal government continues to meet demands for personal protective equipment in federal support to Massachusetts.

As of May 6, several alternate care sites are operating in Massachusetts: Boston Convention and Exposition Center, DCU Center in Worcester, Newton Pavilion and the Former Kindred Hospital in Boston and hotels and skilled nursing centers throughout the Commonwealth.

“From the beginning, we acknowledged that the Strategic National Stockpile alone could not fulfill all requirements, which is why we need continued private sector integration and increased domestic manufacturing of critical medical supplies, equipment and pharmaceuticals,” said FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor. “Our strategy to allocate medical supplies and equipment is based on disease activity and its effects, as well as the need to distribute limited supplies to areas where resources needed most urgently.”

Support local dairy farmers during Dairy Month

MASSACHUSETTS – Every year June is dubbed Dairy Month, during which, consumers and producers alike celebrate the farmers who work tirelessly to provide us with milk and dairy products. An important staple in the American diet, milk is known to be nutrient dense and filled with protein. As such, consumers usually stock up on this item when they know they may be forced to stay at home for an extended period of time.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder about how important our food supply chain is,” said Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation President Mark Amato. “Making sure that our stores have milk and other products that consumers desire has been a challenge

as plants cannot just repurpose themselves from cheese to fluid milk on a moment's notice. As such, we have seen stores with no fluid milk and yet, our dairy producers have sometimes been forced to dump milk, which is heartbreaking.”

Prior to COVID-19, there was large demand for cheese and other processed milk products by the restaurant industry. But as the stay at home orders set in, consumers switched to purchasing more fluid milk at grocery stores, which created some strain on the supply chain.

“Representatives of the dairy industry, including American Farm Bureau, have stepped up to the plate and have been advocating on behalf of the farmer to talk about

solutions and ask for workable solutions,” Amato said. “Every day, dairy farmers are producing more milk and working to provide our consumers with the products they desire.”

For more than a century, MFBF and American Farm Bureau Federation have advocated on behalf of farmers and provided them with support. To join online and show your support for the Massachusetts dairy producers, please visit <http://www.farmbureau.co/online-application/>.

To understand more about the challenges of milk production during COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.fb.org/viewpoints/an-open-letter-to-consumers-about-milk>.

Propane Gas Association offers grilling safety tip

EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE – While many families are still spending most (if not all) of their time at home, New Englanders are eager to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. While gas grills, portable fire pits and patio heaters make outdoor spaces a comfortable reprieve from being stuck at home, it's important that they are used properly.

Before bringing out portable appliances and firing up the propane grill, the Propane Gas Association of New England and the New England Propane Foundation offer the following tips to help homeowners get the most from their outdoor appliances safely:

The grilling area should also be designated as a “No Play Zone” keeping kids and pets away from the equipment. To help kids learn about gas grill safety, the Propane Education and Research Council has launched the fun interactive website www.propanekids.com.

For more information on using outdoor living spaces safely, people may visit www.pgane.org and www.propane.com.

The Propane Gas Association of New England and the New England Propane Foundation serve more than 800 members of the propane industry by promoting safety, education and public awareness of the uses of propane.

COUGARS from page 9

sons. And Jordan played doubles for points last year, mostly at second doubles. After that, we were to have a few other players who got to play a little bit last year, but would have really needed to step up this year. We had a great turnout at the sign-ups and I expected another big team.”

The coach expressed sadness over the loss of the 2020 spring season.

“Even though tennis players, especially singles players, are distanced from each other,” said St. Denis. “I understand why we are not in school and why the season needed to be canceled. And who knows what things will look like in the fall and next spring. But for now, all athletes should be motivated to practice and come back stronger than ever. Hopefully things will be better next year.”

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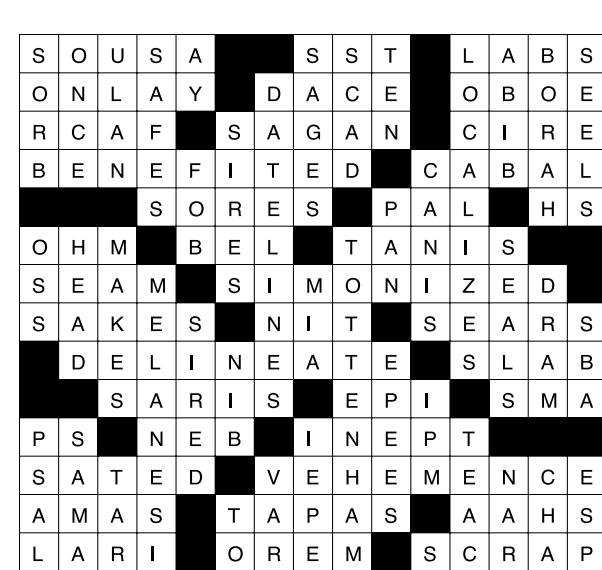
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